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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**26 FEBRUARY 2019**

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) Arizona – Nearly \$4.3 Million Worth of Drugs Seized**

(U) Tucson – More than 349 pounds of drugs with an estimated \$4.3 million were seized in three separate incidents at the Port of Nogales Saturday. The drugs and vehicles involved in the incident were seized, and the people arrested were turned over to the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

SOURCE: 25 February 2019, [KVOA Tucson](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) Pennsylvania – Cocaine Bust Disrupts Cross-State Operation**

(U) Pittsburgh – A cross-state drug trafficking ring was busted yesterday after police seized \$10 million dollars of cocaine and took two men into custody. The District Attorney Narcotics Enforcement Team, State Police, North Versailles Police and Swissvale Police arrested two Philadelphia men as the result of an investigation that began more than six months ago. Investigators believe the two men have spent the past two years transporting hundreds of kilograms of cocaine from Philadelphia to Allegheny County.

SOURCE: 26 February 2019, [WTAE](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Burkina Faso – Military Kills 29 Extremists**

(U) Ouagadougou – Burkina Faso's armed forces say defense and security forces killed 29 extremists in an operation last week in the country's east. Burkina Faso has seen a major increase in extremist attacks in the past few years. The threat, which initially came from the northern Sahel region, has shifted into the forested east near the border with Niger. The government recently declared a state of emergency in 14 provinces of seven regions. Burkina Faso is part of the G5 Sahel regional counterterrorism force.

SOURCE: 25 February 2019, [Associated Press](#)

(U) India – Aircraft Strike Terrorist Targets in Pakistan

(U) New Delhi – India launched an airstrike on a target within Pakistan today in the most serious escalation in hostilities between the two nuclear-armed neighbors in two decades. Indian fighter jets crossed the Line of Control, the unofficial border that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan, and hit a target that India said was a training camp used by Jaish-e-Muhammad, a Pakistan-based militant group that is designated as a terrorist organization by the United States. Jaish-e-Muhammad claimed responsibility for an attack on 14 February that killed 40 Indian paramilitary police in Kashmir. The attack was the deadliest in three decades of insurgency against Indian rule, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had vowed to respond.

SOURCE: 26 February 2019, [The Washington Post](#)

(U) Mexico – Four Police Officers Arrested Among Nine Gang Members

(U) Chilapa – Federal and state officials in Chilapa, Guerrero, arrested nine members of the violent

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criminal gang Los Rojos on Saturday and four of them turned out to be officers of the municipal police department. Two of those arrested were minors, and all were allegedly involved in drug trafficking activities with the gang, which has been embroiled in a violent turf war with the Los Ardillos gang since 2011. Last year, nine municipal police officers were murdered in Chilapa, including Chief Isidro Casarrubias Tlaltempa, whose corpse was found dismembered in Chilpancingo several days after he was kidnapped.

SOURCE: 25 February 2019, [Mexico News Daily](#)

(U) Qatar – US-Taliban Peace Talks

(U) Doha – American and Taliban officials looking to end a 17-year war in Afghanistan began their most detailed and high-level discussions yet on foreign troop withdrawals and counterterrorism today, officials close to the peace negotiations said. The talks, which kicked off in Doha yesterday with a meet-and-greet lunch, are seen as the most promising yet between the warring parties after the Taliban's newly-appointed political chief Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar joined for the first time, flying in from Pakistan. The two sides are looking to hammer out a timeline and logistics for a potential troop withdrawal, as well as guarantees that the Taliban will not host militant groups as the US winds down its presence, sources close to the talks said.

SOURCE: 26 February 2019, [Reuters](#)

(U) Somalia – Airstrike Kills 35 Al-Shabaab Fighters

(U) Mogadishu – The US military said yesterday that a recent air strike in central Somalia killed 35 al-Shabaab fighters. The US carries out regular air strikes in Somalia in support of a UN-backed government there, which has been fighting against an al-Shabaab insurgency for years. Al-Shabaab wants to overthrow the weak, UN-backed Somali government and impose strict Islamic law.

SOURCE: 25 February 2019, [Reuters](#)

(U) Yemen – US Hostage Released

(U) Sanaa – President Donald Trump announced yesterday that American citizen Danny Burch has been freed after 18 months of captivity in Yemen in what the State Department suggested was a rescue operation. In a statement, President Trump thanked the United Arab Emirates for its role in reuniting Burch with his family. Burch, who is from eastern Texas and is married to a Yemeni national, had lived in the country for years working for an oil company. He was reportedly kidnapped by rebels in September 2017.

SOURCE: 26 February 2019, [NBC News](#)

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